

March 8, 2005

Hearing Clerk, Office of Administrative Law Judges
USDA Mail Stop 9203
1400 Independence Ave. SW
Washington DC 20250-9203

USDA
OALJ/OH
2005 MAR 22 PM 2:30
RECEIVED

RE: Amendment of marketing orders 916 and 917.

Dear Sir or Madam:

My name is Daniel Jackson and I am hereby requesting that this letter be submitted into the hearing records for the amendments to marketing orders 916 and 917, which were held on February 15, 2005 in Fresno, CA. I am medium size grower and handler of peaches and nectarines. I would first of all like to express my surprise at the scope of this proposal. I was not aware that such an aggressive and invasive proposal, which threatens our financial well being, was being considered.

I oppose Proposal 13 because it would limit consumer choice as well as dictate where and how we can do business. Our customers should dictate that to us, not the CTFA. The CTFA says that this proposal is for the sake of adding flexibility. While it's true that Proposal 13 would give the committees more flexibility to regulate us, I argue that we need to be free of such regulation so that we can have the flexibility to adapt to today's rapidly changing consumer preferences.

If a consumer in a certain area or of a certain economic level wants to buy sweet, edible product that may contain small blemishes such as what is found in the utility grade, why shouldn't they be able to buy this fruit at a lower cost?

Sincerely,


Daniel Jackson